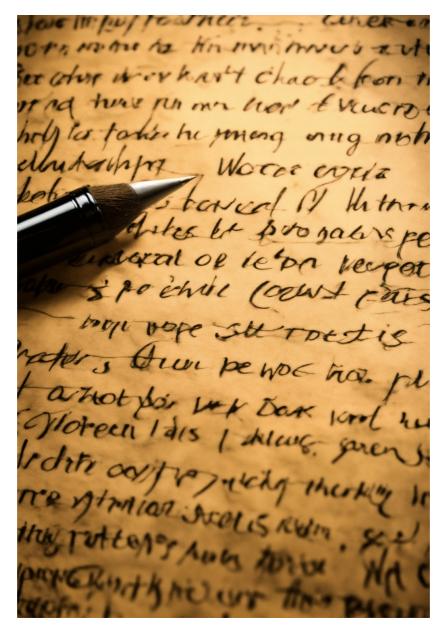
#185 A Letter of Gratitude to My Cousin

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Dear Epshipha,

I've been thinking about you a lot lately and I feel the need to write this letter even though I know you're no longer here. It's strange to think that I can no longer hear your voice or see your smile in person. I still catch myself looking for you in the places we used to be, expecting you to be there, laughing, teasing or simply sharing a moment with me in those childhood days.

There are so many things I wish I could tell you, so many conversations I wish we could still have. I miss the times we spent together those moments that were both big and small but always meaningful. You were more than just a cousin to me, you were a friend, a confidant and someone who made everything a little bit brighter.

Even though you're not physically with us I feel your presence in my heart often at periamma's home. I carry the memories of our time together and they give me strength when I need it most.

I wish you could see how much you are missed and how many people still think of you. Your impact on all of us is something that can never be forgotten.

I know you're at peace now and I take comfort in that but I still wish you were here to share in the moments life brings. Until we meet again I will hold you close in my heart and I'll keep your memory alive in everything I do.

With all my love, Shalo